

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for resolving issues within a team environment, the team environment including a virtual team room providing computer access to the team environment by first members of a first organization and by second members of a second organization, organizationally disparate from the first members, the method comprising the steps of:

electronically receiving from one member of the first members and the second members an issue document;

providing to the one member a list identifying potential reviewers for the issue;
~~the potential reviewers;~~

receiving from the one member a selection ~~and identification~~ of a reviewer for the issue; ~~and~~

restricting dissemination of the issue document to the selected reviewer;

automatically notifying the one member that the issue document has become dated after a first specified amount of time; and

automatically archiving or deleting the issue document a second specified amount of time after the one member was notified that the issue document has become dated.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from the reviewer an ~~and~~ escalation approval; and
escalating the issue document to a management function.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the potential reviewers comprise a leader of the virtual team room and a delegate of a leader of the virtual team room.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding a notification to the reviewer.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the notification comprises an electronic mail message.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising including in the notification a link to the issue document within the virtual team room.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the link comprises a hypertext link.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first members are linked to the virtual team room environment by a first network and the second members are linked to the virtual team room environment by a second network, disparate from the first network.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first network comprises one of a secure network and an unsecured network.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unsecured network comprises the Internet.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the secure network comprises a local area network.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the second network comprises one of a secure network and an unsecured network.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the unsecured network comprises the Internet.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the secure network comprises a local area network.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual team environment comprises a team work tool supported on a server.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising providing a security server coupled to the virtual team environment and verifying the identity of the first and second members using the security server.

17. (new) The method of claim 1, comprising
automatically generating one or more assignments relating to an issue specified in the issue document; and
automatically communicating the one or more assignments to one or more team members associated with the issue.

18. (new) The method of claim 1, comprising:
defining a team calendar for the virtual team room accessible by team members, wherein the team calendar includes one or more specified events;
linking one or more news items to one or more of the specified events; and
upon a specified event passing, automatically deleting or archiving the one or more news items linked to the specified event which has passed.